

Local Education Agency
Ad Hoc Workgroup Meeting
June 7, 2006 Meeting Summary

Location: Sacramento City Unified School District

ATTENDEES:

	Name	Organization/Title
1.	Barbara Schultz	CDHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
2.	Carol Massey-McCants	CDHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
3.	John DiCecco	Los Angeles Unified School District (USD)
4.	Laura Baynham	Mendocino County Office of Education (COE)
5.	Cathy Bennett	Sacramento City USD
6.	Susan Bier	Konocti USD
7.	Greg Englar	Sonoma COE
8.	Barbara Lewis Mill	Rocklin USD
9.	Margie Bobe	Los Angeles USD
10.	Barbara Miller	Fresno USD
11.	Judy Dorn	Fresno COE
12.	Sue Hamblin	Stanislaus COE
13.	Judy Holzapfel	Glenn COE
14.	Linda Davis-Alldritt	California Department of Education
15.	Robert Powell	California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
16.	Kevin Harris	Navigant Consulting Inc.
17.	Marna Hammer	Navigant Consulting Inc.
18.	Gloria Eng	Navigant Consulting Inc.
19.	Marlana Evans	Navigant Consulting Inc.
20.	Kirsten Martens	Navigant Consulting Inc.

Handouts

Each participant received a folder with copies of the following: Agenda, Summary of Questions for Training FAQs, Senate Bill 231 Implementation Project Status Reports (December 2005-April 2006) and Navigant Consulting's PowerPoint presentation. In addition, CDHS distributed copies of the letter from CMS reaffirming the denial of the Free Care waiver request.

Purpose

The meeting was convened by the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) in partnership with LAUSD. The purpose of the Workgroup is to improve the Local Education Agency (LEA) Program. The emphasis of the meeting is to strategize various goals and activities aimed at enhancing the Medi-Cal services provided on school sites and access by students to these services, while increasing federal reimbursement to LEAs for the cost of providing these services.

Local Education Agency
Ad Hoc Workgroup Meeting
June 7, 2006 Meeting Summary

Free Care Waiver Reconsideration

On March 6, 2006, CDHS submitted a letter to CMS requesting reconsideration of the Free Care waiver for the LEA Program. CMS responded on May 25, 2006, reaffirming their September 2005 denial to waive Free Care principle requirements for the LEA Program.

Speech-Language Equivalency State Plan Amendment (SPA) 05-010

On April 24, 2006, the California Office of the Attorney General (AG) issued their opinion regarding practitioner equivalency for credentialed speech-language pathologists. The AG found that credentialed speech-language pathologists with clinical or rehabilitative services credentials are not equivalent to American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) licensed speech-language pathologists. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is working to align the credentialing requirements with State and federal licensing requirements for speech-language pathologists. In addition, Assembly Bill (AB) 2837, which is currently under consideration, contains language which specifies required qualifications for providers of speech-language services.

Other Health Coverage (OHC) and Third Party Liability (TPL) Issues

Workgroup members addressed specific issues they are encountering with regards to OHC, TPL, and “pay and chase” claims. The Workgroup requested that CDHS and CDE work to resolve these issues may need a system change that could be beneficial to the entire provider community, not just one LEA at a time.

Action:

What: Benefits Branch to meet with the CDHS TPL division.

Who: Benefits Branch

When: As soon as possible.

Provider Manual Update

The updated LEA portion of the Medi-Cal Provider Manual was published on May 15, 2006. The 18 new sections of the Provider Manual are available on-line through the LEA Program website and Medi-Cal website (www.medi-cal.ca.gov). Providers registered with EDS should have already received a hard copy of the LEA Provider Manual pages. The updated LEA Provider Manual, new program policy, and HIPAA-compliant billing codes go into effect on July 1, 2006.

Local Education Agency
Ad Hoc Workgroup Meeting
June 7, 2006 Meeting Summary

SPA Implementation Training

CDHS conducted six SPA Implementation training sessions in April and May 2006. Attendees at these trainings represented 44 counties, accounting for approximately 60% of total LEA Program reimbursement for FY 2004-05. A review of the 14 counties with no representation at training showed that these counties comprise less than two percent of statewide reimbursement. CDHS and the Workgroup concluded that the six training sessions were successful at reaching the majority of LEAs with significant reimbursement in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program. In order to reach the remaining LEAs, CDE offered to assist CDHS with informing providers about the upcoming program changes via an electronic reminder bulletin to all LEAs.

The Workgroup assisted to clarify outstanding issues from questions asked during training sessions. Also, CDHS is waiting for clarification from CMS regarding some LEA Program policy. They anticipate two-three weeks for a response will be received. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be posted on the LEA Program website as soon as they are finalized.

Action:

What: Prepare a letter to providers notifying LEAs of the program changes effective July 1, 2006.

Who: CDHS, CDE and Navigant Consulting

When: As soon as possible.

Action:

What: Determine which LEAs were represented by attending billing vendors at SPA Implementation trainings.

Who: Navigant Consulting

When: DONE

Action:

What: Provide PPL regarding contingency payments and any additional laws/regulations to the Workgroup regarding appropriate payment to billing vendors under contract with LEAs.

Who: CDHS – Barbara to email giving the statutory citation on contingency fees.

When: June 26-30.

Action:

What: Email CDHS IDEA language and SELPA forms regarding referrals for assessments.

Who: Laura Baynham

When: As soon as possible.

Local Education Agency
Ad Hoc Workgroup Meeting
June 7, 2006 Meeting Summary

Action:

What: Workgroup to review SPA Implementation FAQs and provide comments.

Who: Workgroup

When: As soon as possible.

Action:

What: Finalize and post SPA Implementation FAQs on the LEA Program website.

Who: CDHS and Navigant Consulting

When: By July 14, 2006 – It can take 2-3 weeks or longer to get a response from CMS.

Upcoming Work

CDHS and NCI reviewed upcoming work, which includes: continued work on regulations; administering the TPL survey; inflating rates for services under SPA 03-024; discussing re-billing with CMS; analyzing paid claims data; and finalizing CRCS forms for posting on LEA Program website.

Prescriptions, Referrals and Recommendations

The Workgroup discussed how to operationalize the documentation requirements for prescriptions, referrals and recommendations for LEA services. Workgroup members would like to help the LEA provider community by developing and sharing prescription, referral and recommendation document forms as examples.

Action:

What: Develop examples forms to document prescriptions, referrals and recommendations for services to be distributed as a guide for LEAs.

Who: Workgroup

When: July 2006

Action:

What: Post slides summarizing prescription, referral and recommendation requirements for assessment and treatment services on the LEA Program website.

Who: CDHS and Navigant Consulting

When: As soon as possible.

Future Workgroup Meeting

The next Workgroup meeting for CDHS and providers will be held in Sacramento on September 13th.